

Durham Environmental Affairs Board
Tuesday, November 16, 1999, 6:00 PM
Durham City Hall, 2nd Floor Committee Room

Meeting Notes

Chairman, Joseph Jackson, called the meeting to order at 6:18pm. Members in attendance were Jim Conner, Ed Harrison, Marion Johnson-Thompson, David Kirkpatrick and Brian Morton. City Council liaison Pam Blyth also attended. Staff in attendance were Tommy Glen, Chuck Hill, and Alex Waddell. Members with excused absences were Jerad Bales, and Steve Hiltner.

Meeting Notes: Meeting notes from October 26 meeting approved with the change of the word thresholds in the first line of the Travel Demand Management section to crucial issues.

Sandy Creek Park Site: There is concern about the City of Durham entering into a lease agreement with AT&T PCS for a telecommunications tower at the Sandy Creek Park site. Joe Jackson obtained the site plan from Steve Medlin in the Planning Department for members to view at the meeting. Dale McKeel a Zoning Committee member of the Planning Commission criticized the location of the potential tower as a poor visual component for the City of Durham Parks and Recreation Masterplan. EAB suggests there are more appropriate for communication towers than the proposed site. Joe Jackson, EAB Chairman, will contact Guillo Rodriguez at Durham Parks and Recreation for a presentation on the masterplan and the status of the tower.

Urban Growth Boundary: Brian Morton noted that he read excerpts from the EAB position paper on the proposed changes to the Urban Growth Boundary at the November 15 City Council meeting. Council member Paul Miller asked that EAB provide substantiating evidence for their statements made in the position paper. Ed Harrison also spoke at the meeting and expressed concern about the timing of expansion in the UGA in the southwest. He said a watershed management process is starting for Jordan Lake. Pam Blyth said changes to the UGA will be discussed at a future City Council retreat and suggested that EAB request time for a presentation at that time.

Travel Demand Management: At the last TDM meeting the County Attorney presented potential measures for a TDM ordinance and potential zoning ordinance measures to address TDM. Brian said he had met with County Commissioner Ellen Reckhow and Mark Ahrendsen of the City of Durham Department of Transportation. They discussed reduced trips, reduced vehicle miles traveled and the effect on air quality. The measurement of success needs to be achievable and a base line developed for employers. Government employers need to set the example for others. Pam Blyth said that City Council is waiting for recommendations from EAB.

Adequate Public Facilities: At the November 10, 1999 meeting Floyd McKissick requested Jim Conner also serve on the Adequate Public Facilities Task Force. Also, there is a push to hire a consultant to prepare an ordinance for adoption. There is lot of discussion on the adequacy of roads with the focus potentially ending up on bigger roads. The risk of unintended consequences was also raised.

James Mitchell, City of Durham Forester, wishes to present a tree removal policy for EAB review at the December meeting.

Next Meeting: Trip Reduction Measures, AT&T PCS Tower at Sandy Creek, City of Durham Park Masterplan, and the City of Durham Tree Removal Policy.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Notes prepared by Alex Waddell, Durham City-County Planning